

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SSC-01 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4888

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2194

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, UY

SUBJ: NAMING

OF NEW MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

1. GOU ANNOUNCED JULY 15 NAMING OF CR MANUEL PAZOS AS NEW MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE. SIMULTANEOIYLY, OUTGOING MINISTER MOISES COHEN HAS BEEN MOVED TO OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET TO REPLACE RECENTLY DEPARTED DIRECTOR RICARDO ZERBINO.

2. COHEN GAVE PRESS INTERVIEW OVER WEEKEND DESCRIBING ROLE HE WOULD HOPE TO PLAY AS DIRECTOR OF PLANNING OFFICE, EMPHASIZING OBJECTIVES OF IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND OF CREATING SECTORAL COMMITTEES TO GUIDE POLICIES IN MAJOR INDUSTRIES. INDIVIDUAL COMMITTES WOULD CONTAIN RZ RESENTATIVES OF PLANNING OFFICE, MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS. WORKERS WOULD ALSO BE EXPECTED TO "CO-PARTICIPATE" IN BENEFITS OF HIGHER LEVELS OF PRODUCTION, PRESUMABLY THROUGH SOME FORM OF PROFIT SHARING.

3. COMMENT: COHEN'S MOVEMENT TO HE PLANNING OFFICE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY BOTH PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL REASONS. PROFESSIONALLY, MOVE SEEMS TO REFLECT COHEN'S DESIRE TO GIVE PLANNING OFFICE MUCH STRONGER ROLE IN ECONOMIC PLANNING, WITH POSSIBLE ASSUMPTION OF SOME OF THE BUDGETARY FUNCTIONS CURRENTLY  
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EXERCISED BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, IN ADDITION TO ROLE OF ESTABLISHING SECTORAL PLANNING COMMITTEES. PERSONALLY, COHEN UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN UNDER SEVERE FAMILY PRESSURES TO TAKE A LESS CENTRAL ROLE IN GOV POLICY. NEW FINANCE MINISTER PAZOS HAD BEEN NATIONAL TREASURER (RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT CAREER POSITION IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY) UNTIL NAMED TWO MONTHS AGO TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF STATE OWNED PETROLEUM AGENCY, ANCAP. PAZOS IS AN ACCOUNTANT, WHOSE BACKGROUND AND REPUTATION DO NOT SUGGEST AN OBVIOUS PROFESSIONAL BASIS FOR BEING NAMED TO WHAT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC-POLICY POSITION IN THE GOV. PAZOS, LIKE OTHER RECENT MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS (SEE MVD 2133), HAS NOT BEEN AN ACTIVE POLITICIAN. HE IS REPORTED HOWEVER TO HAVE TIES TO SENATOR JUAN ADOLFO SINGER, ONE OF THE MORE PRO-MILITARY POLITICIANS IN THE UNR FACTION OF THE COLORADO PARTY. ORTIZ

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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